

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 BIB-01 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 SSO-00

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DRAFTED BY EUR/EE:APBRAINARD:MV

APPROVED BY EUR:JAARMITAGE

EUR/EE:NGANDREWS

BIB:TBARTHELEMY (SUBSTANCE)

EUR/IB:EMROWELL (DRAFT)

EUR/WE:WHMARSH (DRAFT)

EUR/CE:SESTEINER (DRAFT)

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL MUNICH IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 087680

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PROP, PO, FR, GW

SUBJECT: RFE BROADCASTING TIME FOR PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT

1. THE FOLLOWING IS FOR YOUR INFORMATION.

2. THE PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT RECENTLY REQUESTED OF RFE FREE BROADCASTING TIME ON RFE'S GLORIA TRANSMITTERS FOR PORTUGUESE MUSIC AND "OBJECTIVE NEWS" TO GERMANY AND FRANCE, PARTICULARLY DURING THE ELECTION PERIOD. THE PORTUGUESE REQUESTED A TWO-HOUR PERIOD IN THE EARLY MORNING, ANOTHER TWO-HOUR PERIOD BEGINNING AT NOON AND A THIRDPERIODOF FORTY MINUTES AT ABOUT 9:00 P.M.

3. RFE OPERATES IN PORTUGAL THROUGH A PORTUGUESE CORPORA-
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TION, RARET, WHICH PARTIALLY OWNS THE TRANSMITTERS. A

MAJORITY OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND STOCKHOLDERS HAS ALWAYS BEEN PORTUGUESE. THE EXCLUSIVE PURPOSE FOR WHICH RARET WAS CHARTERED AND LICENSED WAS THE BROADCAST OF RFE'S PROGRAMS TO EASTERN EUROPE. RFE WHOLLY FINANCES RARET'S COSTS.

4. REPORTEDLY, BROADCASTS OF PORTUGUESE MUSIC AND INFORMATION TO PORTUGUESE IN WESTERN EUROPE HAVE OR ARE ABOUT TO

BEGIN OVER ONE OF THE TRANSMITTERS OF RADIO TRANS-EUROPA LOCATED AT SINES. REPORTEDLY ALSO, RADIO TRANS-EUROPA IS FINANCED BY DEUTSCHE-WELLE AND IS LARGELY USED FOR DEUTSCHE-WELLE BROADCASTS TO EASTERN EUROPE, ALTHOUGH TIME IS RENTED TO OTHER BROADCASTERS INCLUDING RADIO CANADA.

5. FACED WITH THE LACK OF A VIABLE ALTERNATIVE -- RARET'S MOST RECENT LEASE STIPULATES THAT IN THE EVENT OF A "NATIONAL EMERGENCY," THE PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT MAY "REQUISITION ALL OR PART OF THE INSTALLATIONS FOR ITS OWN USE" -- THE BOARD FOR INTERNATIONAL BROADCASTING HAS AUTHORIZED RFE TO TELL THE PORTUGUESE THAT THE REQUESTED TIME WOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE. MEETING THIS MINIMAL PORTUGUESE REQUEST HOPEFULLY CAN HEAD OFF MORE DRACONIAN MEASURES WHICH COULD RUIN THE EFFECTIVENESS OF RFE BROADCASTING TO EASTERN EUROPE.

6. THE FRENCH AND GERMAN EMBASSIES WERE INFORMED TELEPHONICALLY AND IN LOW KEY OF OUR DECISION AT C.O.B. APRIL 15. EMBASSY OFFICERS EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR PROMPT NOTIFICATION.

7. YOU SHOULD NOT DISCUSS THIS DEVELOPMENT WITH PRESS. KISSINGER

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